

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSSAG

S E C R E T STATE 014458

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT PHNOM PENH 1032 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BANGKOK 22 JAN

QUOTE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 1032

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOKS, CB, TH
SUBJECT: FANK REQUEST FOR RTAF AIR STRIKES

REF: A. BANGKOK 1150
B. BANGKOK 873
C. CHMEDTC 732 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE RTAF AIR SUPPORT THAT
GENERAL KRIANGSAK HAS INDICATED RTG MIGHT BE PREPARED TO GIVE
(REF A) WOULD BE OF LITTLE IF ANY MILITARY VALUE TO THE KHMER
AND THUS WOULD IN NO SENSE MERIT POLITICAL RISKS INVOLVED OR
EXPENDITURE OF SCARCE MAP FUNDS. END SUMMARY.

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2. FIRST OF ALL THERE ARE FEW ENEMY TARGETS WITHIN 30 KILOMETERS
OF THE THAI BORDER, NOR ARE THERE LIKELY IN THE FUTURE TO BE
MANY. MOREOVER, ANY ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM THE AIR WOULD MOST
LIKELY BE FOR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, WHICH RTAF IS NOT PREPARED TO

GIVE.

3. SECONDLY, THERE IS NO MAP FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR RTAF AMMUNITION AND POL. NOR WOULD WE RECOMMEND REVISION OF PROGRAM TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE COSTS, BECAUSE ITEMS ALREADY IN PROGRAM MERIT HIGHER PRIORITY.

4. THIRDLY, IT IS WELL TO KEEP IN MIND THE LONG HISTORY OF THAI UNDERTAKINGS TO SUPPORT THE GKR MILITARILY IN CAMBODIA SINCE 1970. LITTLE HAS COME OF THEM, AND THAI INTEREST HAS APPEARED TO REST MAINLY ON EXORBITANT HOPES OF EXTRACTING INDUCEMENTS FROM THE U.S. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THAI AIR FORCE LIAISON ELEMENTS LOCATED IN PHNOM PENH AND BATTAMBANG SINCE 1970 HAVE BEEN OF LITTLE OR NO ASSISTANCE TO THE REQLBLIC.

5. LASTLY, THE POLITICAL PRICE OF THAI AIR SUPPORT IS LIKELY TO BE MUCH TOO HIGH.. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT IT IS WORTH RISKING CONGRESSIONAL AND MEDIA CRITICISM IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THAI ASSISTANCE OF AT BEST MARGINAL USEFULNESS. BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON THE OTHER FORMS OF THAI COOPERATION NOW UNDER DISCUSSION.

6. PLEASE REPEAT TO SECDEF, IUCS, CINCPAC AND COMUSSAG.
ENDEYS
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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